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SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS AND DEBATES WOMEN, PEACE,
AND SECURITY RESOLUTION 1889

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¶1. (SBU) Summary: On October 5, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Khiem chaired the Security Council open debate on the Secretary-General's report on Women, Peace, and Security. At the top of the meeting, the Council adopted follow-on resolution 1889, which focuses on women's empowerment in post-conflict situations. All Council members, as well as 36 non-Council members, spoke during the open session. Other speakers included Deputy Secretary General Migiro, Special Adviser of the UN Secretary General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women Mayanja, Executive Director of the UN Development Fund for Women Alberdi, as well as representatives from the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security, the African Union, and the European Union. During the seven hour session Council and non-Council members praised the focus on women's involvement in peace and security issues, but lamented the lack of progress on UNSCR 1325, adopted in 2000. Speakers called for the identification of practical ways to assure a central role for women in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding, and urged a focus on concrete progress during the year ahead.

Council Adopts UNSCR 1889

¶2. (SBU) Vietnamese Minister for Foreign Affairs Pham Gia Khiem on September 30 chaired an open debate on UNSCR 1889, concerning the participation of women in all stages of the peace process. After the unanimous adoption of the resolution, four non-Council members addressed the Security Council to present their respective organization's perspective on the adoption. On behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro stated that women's contributions make a critical difference to community survival in post-conflict situations and called for the appointment of more women to leadership positions. Migiro encouraged Member States to use the tenth anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in 2010 to take stock of progress and focus on adopting national action plans for the implementation of ¶1325. To date, Migiro stated, only 16 countries have adopted these plans. Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women Rachel Mayanja introduced the Secretary-General's report on women and peace and security and affirmed that women and girls continued to be victims of gender-based violence, both during and after armed conflicts. She cited progress in training and capacity-development, including mine-action programs, which has resulted in a lower number of women's casualties. Mayanja encouraged the Security Council to insist on a

greater number of women peacekeepers, peacebuilders and decision-makers, and she cited expectations that the Security Council will convene a ministerial-level meeting in 2010 to review progress and invigorate efforts to implement UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1889.

13. (SBU) Executive Director of the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Ines Alberdi stated that women's leadership was an integral part of early recovery and peacebuilding efforts. She said that post-conflict planners should investigate and allocate sufficient resources to meet women's specific needs. Alberdi emphasized the importance of developing indicators, as called for in UNSCR 1889, as critical for accountability, stressing that, "it is time for us all to count the number of women at the peace table, the number of women raped in war, the number of internally displaced women who never recover their property, the number of women human rights defenders killed for speaking out." Asha Hagi Elmi Amin, a representative of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, described her work as an advocate for the political, economic and social rights of women in Somalia, noting that women bring tolerance, compassion, forgiveness and practical solutions to reconciliation. She underscored that without accountability for UNSCR 1888 and UNSCR 1889 impediments to their implementation will remain. She concluded by urging the international community to use the tenth anniversary of UNSCR 1325 as an opportunity to ensure that women are engaged in all levels of decision-making in conflict resolution processes. She also urged the SC to support the Special Representative called for in UNSCR 1888 and ensure that the new consolidated gender entity is well-resourced.

Council Members Welcome New Resolution,

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Lament Slow Implementation of UNSCR 1325

14. (SBU) Delegations unanimously welcomed Vietnam's leadership on the follow-on women and peace and security resolution, while lamenting the slow pace of implementation of UNSCR 1325 since its adoption in 2000. All SC members acknowledged that armed conflict continued to have a devastating impact on women and girls and that countries should address women's specific needs in conflict and post-conflict situations. U.S. Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo stated that in spite of the passage of UNSCR 1325, armed conflict continues to have a devastating impact on women and girls, leaving them, "wounded, traumatized, sexually assaulted, socially and economically marginalized or without political power." She described efforts by grassroots women's organizations in Liberia, which had a direct and visible impact on peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction efforts, as an example of activism that helped break a political impasse. She urged increased numbers of women to serve as mediators, special envoys and peacekeepers, as well as rapid implementation of Resolution 1888. The UK likened the recent adoptions of UNSCRs 1888 and 1889 to a long wait at a bus stop, after which, "two or three buses come at the same time." The UK applauded Secretary General Ban's appointment of three of the nine women who have held the post of Special Representative, as well as the appointment of a female Deputy Secretary-General, yet noted the absence of a female Special Envoy. The UK suggested that the Council use the tenth anniversary of UNSCR 1325 to identify imaginative solutions, make use of the entire UN system and work through the Gender Entity to achieve progress. Croatia echoed the UK's comments and emphasized that under the leadership of its first female prime minister, it will give full support to the women, peace and security agenda. Croatia, along with Burkina Faso, also lamented the lack of security for women and girls in camps for refugees and internally displaced persons.

15. (SBU) France stated that much has been done to implement

resolution 1325, such as the UN stepping up efforts to protect women in post-conflict situations and including elements of the resolution in peacekeeping mandates. France noted the European Union's similar commitment to creating policy on violence against women, stating that the UN is not alone in its endeavors. Turkey used the example of Afghanistan as proof that raising awareness of gender-equality works, noting that 64 percent of Afghan women now believe that they should contribute to the post-conflict reconstruction of their country. In its national capacity, Vietnam emphasized that the State and society should focus on the needs of both civilian and military women in post-conflict societies, expressing gratitude for UN assistance in Vietnam's reconstruction efforts over the past 30 years. Burkina Faso, along with Austria, China, Croatia, Japan and Uganda all specifically called for an increased role for women in all stages of the peace process. Uganda stated that its government had ensured that resolution 1325 was used as a reference when the peace agreement was signed with the Lord's Resistance Army this year. Many members of the SC, including Burkina Faso, Croatia, Mexico, Turkey and the UK extended their support for the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 14, which calls for the consolidation of four existing UN offices into one "composite entity" focused on women to be headed by an Under-Secretary General.

16. (SBU) Libya said that in spite of the passage of recent Security Council resolutions focused on women's empowerment, data from the field indicate that women and children are increasingly the principal victims of conflict and the target of combatants. Libya added that the "physical and psychological suffering of Palestinian women due to Zionist occupation," as well as other crimes committed in Gaza should not be neglected. As president of the African Union (AU), Libya noted the AU's plan to declare the coming decade the "decade of women," and described its 2004 action plan focused on empowering women. China expressed support for the resolution, but noted that the countries concerned have primary responsibility to incorporate women's rights and interests into peace processes. China also noted its hope that the Secretary General would expeditiously fulfill the

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reporting duties outlined in UNSCRs 1888 and 1889. Russia noted its satisfaction with Resolutions 1888 and 1889, but noted that women are affected by all types of violence in conflict, including terrorism and excessive use of force. Russia hoped that the tenth anniversary of UNSCR 1325 next year can be used to assess challenges and work towards a plan to meet these challenges.

Concrete Ways of Enhancing UNSCR 1889 and UNSCR 1325

17. (SBU) Several delegations noted their support for indicators to measure women's participation in peace progresses, with France stating that this would be a "first practical step" towards progress. The UK, Mexico, and Uganda specifically mentioned indicators, with Uganda encouraging states to include indicators within their national action plans to implement Resolution 1325. Mexico stated that it was particularly important for these indicators to measure the number of women in decision-making posts related to peacemaking. France also called for a Ministerial-level meeting in October, as well as reallocation of resources within DPKO and DPA to better accommodate the needs of women.

Japan was the only member of the Security Council to specifically mention sanctions, stating that "targeted sanctions measures should be effectively utilized," to end impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence against women and girls. Japan also called for strengthening gender units by appointing gender advisors to peacekeeping missions.

Non-Council Members Stress Commitment
to Women's Empowerment, Need to do More

¶18. (SBU) All European Union countries that spoke aligned themselves with the statement delivered by Sweden, who as European Union President, asked the Council, "After almost 10 years, why do we still need to reaffirm our commitment to SCR 1325?" Similar to past debates on women, peace, and security, which are held yearly, most countries said that more women need to be part of peace processes and agreements. Luxembourg said that women are "the engines" to peace and security at the community level and Norway said there is no security where women are not secure. The Philippines ended its statement quoting the poet William Ross Wallace, "...for the hand that rocks the cradle, is the hand that rules the world." Most countries highlighted the role NGOs and civil society groups play in promoting women's issues both in their own countries and internationally. Speakers praised U.S. Permanent Representative Ambassador Susan Rice and the U.S. delegation for the passage of UNSCR 1888 on conflict-related sexual violence, and Ireland and Italy thanked Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for bringing these issues to the forefront of the Security Council's agenda.

¶19. (SBU) Nearly all non-Council members mentioned the 10th anniversary of SCR 1325 next year with most hopeful more can be done in the next 12 months. Switzerland, with the NGO Working Group, will conduct monthly analyses of all measures taken by the Council related to implementation of SCR 1325 and present a report on the 10th anniversary, to be called "Accountability and Action for the 10th Anniversary of SCR 1325." The European Union as well as Tanzania plan to hold separate ministerial-level events in honor of the 10th anniversary.

¶10. (SBU) Belgium, expressing concern that the 10th anniversary will be "sad," was the only country to offer a sobering assessment of progress on women, peace, and security. The PermRep noted that the situation women face has not improved in the nine years since UNSCR 1325's adoption and called on Council members to emerge from their "New York cocoon" and confront reality before it is too late.

¶11. (SBU) Many countries said they look forward to details on the new Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on sexual violence (as called for in SCR 1888). Egypt said the new SRSG is a "step in the right direction" but noted it had preferred that his/her mandate should have included all forms of violence--not just sexual violence. Other countries mentioning the new SRSG included Belgium,

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Canada, Denmark, the European Union (Sweden), Finland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Switzerland, and Tanzania.

¶12. (SBU) Regarding the new gender entity approved by the General Assembly in September, most countries said they look forward to having the new entity up and running in 2010. The African Union, Australia, Denmark, the European Union (Sweden), Finland, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, South Korea, and Switzerland joined in this call.

¶13. (SBU) Each country that had developed a National Action Plan (NAP) on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 called for other member states to follow suit. These included Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and Switzerland. Countries planning to adopt a NAP that spoke included Argentina, Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand. On the domestic front, a number of countries spoke about their efforts to implement SCR 1325. Argentina announced it was organizing, together with UNIFEM, a workshop in Haiti on gender and human rights aimed at increasing awareness of gender issues within government authorities and the population; India highlighted its deployment of a 100-member

female peacekeeping contingent in Liberia; and Papua New Guinea cited its own experience borne out by the conflict in Bougainville, which hosted a UN-mandated observer mission from 1998 until 2005 that successfully focused on peacebuilding and women.

¶14. (SBU) Afghanistan presented a summary of the struggle it has faced over the last eight years to keep its promise to the women of Afghanistan that what had happened under the Taliban would never happen again. Under First Lady Mubarak's leadership, Egypt is strengthening regional cooperation on women's issues through the "Suzan Mubarak International Women's Movement for Peace," which fosters international and regional realization of the dangers women are exposed to in armed conflict. Rwanda, according to Denmark, is an excellent example of how a country can develop and overcome conflict when women benefit from equal rights and decision making power.

¶15. (SBU) The Federated States of Micronesia, speaking on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, linked the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations to the security implications of climate change. Micronesia noted General Assembly Resolution 63/281 wherein the international community recognized an explicit connection between climate change and international peace and security.

¶16. (SBU) Argentina, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, the European Union (Sweden), Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania called for ending impunity of perpetrators of sexual violence against women. Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union (Sweden), Finland, Iceland, Luxembourg, Micronesia, the Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland referenced the need for an accountability mechanism to monitor implementation of SCR 1325 and subsequent, related SCRs. Switzerland was the only country to call for sanctions as a way to achieve progress towards issues on women, peace, and security.

A Few Detractors

¶17. (SBU) Venezuela suggested that the members of the Council cannot be judges and cannot employ Article 16 of the Rome Statute as a way to stall an International Criminal Court Case. In an indirect reference to the United States--countries who "occupy others" in unilateral wars--Venezuela said that the Council continued to discuss items under the General Assembly's purview, which included women's issues.

Speakers

¶18. (U) The following non-Council members spoke during the open debate: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy,

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Luxembourg, Micronesia (on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States), the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tanzania, Ukraine, and Venezuela. Sweden delivered the statement on behalf of the European Union and the Acting Permanent Observer of the African Union delivered a statement on behalf of his organization. Note: A transcript of the debate is available on the Security Council section of the UN website, www.un.org, under "Meetings."

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